

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05
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P R 080819Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1827
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USNMR SHAPE
CINCEUR
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
USDELMC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T ANKARA 3504

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, TU
SUBJ: NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP)

REF: (A) STATE 113469 (DTG 040125Z MAY 78) (B)
STATE 113468 (DTG 040123Z MAY 78)(NOTAL)

1. IN ABSENCE OF NATO DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, EMBASSY POLITICAL/
MILITARY OFFICER MAY 5 MET WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR GUN GUR
WHO IS FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ACTION OFFICER ON LTDP. EMBASSY
POL/MIL OFFICER CONVEYED TALKING POINTS ON LTDP PER PARAS
3 AND 4 REF A. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION, GUR EMPHASIZED THAT
NECESSARY POLITICAL LEVEL DECISIONS ON LTDP HAVE NOT YET
BEEN MADE, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF HEAVY OVERSEAS TRAVEL
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SCHEDULE OF PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND FOREIGN MINISTER
OKCUN. GUR ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO ARRANGE A
MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER ISIK ON THE
LTDP THIS PAST WEEK BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS DUE TO THE
MINISTER'S ILLNESS (DESCRIBED AS NOT SERIOUS).

2. ON SUBSTANCE OF LTDP, GUR INDICATED THAT HIS PERSONAL VIEWS

DIVERGED SOMEWHAT FROM THOSE OF THE TURKISH MILITARY AND THE TURKISH NATO MISSION. GUR THEN SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY AGREED WITH A NUMBER OF ELEMENTS IN THE CANADIAN PAPER ON THE LTDP, PRINCIPALLY THE OBSERVATION THAT THE LTDP PROPOSALS HAD BEEN HASTILY FORMULATED, THAT MINISTERS AT THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT SHOULD CONFINE THEMSELVES TO GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE LTDP, AND THAT SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DPC AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS LATER, PERHAPS IN THE FALL. NOTING THAT "OUR MISSION IN BRUSSELS WOULD BE VERY ANGRY WITH ME IF I SUGGESTED THESE THINGS", GUR EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOT SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO CONSIDER ALL OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LTDP PROPOSALS AND HE WAS RELUCTANT TO PROPOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE GOT UNRESERVEDLY ADOPT A PROGRAM THAT HAD FAR-REACHING POLITICAL AS WELL AS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

3. EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER THEN REVIEWED CONTENT OF REF A TALKING POINTS AND USG VIEWS ON THE CANADIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL PER REF B. GUR COMMENTED THAT USG ASSURANCES THAT ADOPTION OF THE LTDP DID NOT COMMIT THE ALLIES TO A HIGH-COST PROGRAM BEYOND THE ALREADY AGREED THREE PERCENT PER ANNUM REAL GROWTH TARGET (PARA 3 AND 4 A, REF A) AND OUR REFINEMENT OF THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR CONCEPT (PARA 4 B, REF A) WERE ENCOURAGING. THE GOT, HE SAID, HAD NO PROBLEM WITH USG THINKING ON CONSUMER LOGISTICS (PARA 4 C, REF A), BUT HE WAS UNSURE WHETHER, AT THIS DELICATE STAGE IN TURKISH/

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U.S. AND TURKISH/NATO RELATIONS, IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE GOT TO MAKE A PUBLIC PLEDGE TO COMMIT TWO RESERVE BRIGADES TO NATO'S FORWARD DEFENSE PER PARA 4 D, REF A.

4. REGARDING FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF LTDP, GUR SHOWED EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER XEROX COPY OF INFORMAL DOCUMENT ON COST-SHARING PREPARED BY SHAPE IN MARCH 1978. ACCORDING TO THIS CHART, GUR POINTED OUT, TURKEY'S SHARE OF LTDP IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE SECOND ONLY TO THE U.S. (APPROXIMATELY \$8.0 BILLION FOR THE U.S. AND \$4.6 BILLION FOR TURKEY), IN CONTRAST TO ONLY \$3.6 BILLION FOR THE FRG. GUR OPINED THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO AND THE GOT'S PRESENT STRAINED FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, A COMMITMENT OF THAT MAGNITUDE COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE ENDORSED, MUCH LESS SUSTAINED. FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE GOT WOULD HAVE TO PLACE A STRONG RESERVATION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE LTDP REPORT.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARED THAT GUR WAS PRIMARILY GIVING HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE LTDP DURING THE FOREGOING INTERVIEW. IF IT IS TRUE, AS GUR INDICATED, THAT THE TURKISH MISSION

IN BRUSSELS WILL HAVE A MAJOR SAY IN DETERMINING GOT POSITIONS
ON THE LTDP, USG VIEWS ON THE LTDP AND THE CANADIAN COUNTER-
PROPOSAL MAY CARRY GREATER WEIGHT THERE. IT SHOULD ALSO BE
NOTED THAT FINAL GOT DECISIONS ON THE LTDP ARE NOT LIKELY TO
BE MADE UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE, POSSIBLY EVEN DURING PRIME
MINISTER ECEVIT'S MAY 24-28 VISIT TO BRUSSELS, BECAUSE TOP
OFFICIALS HAVE APPARENTLY NOT HAD TIME TO FOCUS ON THEM
UP TO NOW.MMVXM SPIERS

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